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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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*Copy Susan, PAM
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RECEIVED

MAR 30 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

March 27, 1992

Mr. Charles J. Jankiewicz, District Ranger
Manti-LaSal National Forest
Price Ranger District
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Charles:

The Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has reviewed PacifiCorp's readjustment for Federal Coal Lease U-06039 in the Rilda Canyon area. In conjunction with the readjustment, DWR has reviewed the proposed stipulations outlined by the Forest Service for management of mining operations.

DWR would like to emphasize the importance of this area to a wide variety of wildlife. Rilda Canyon has been classified as critical elk winter range, critical moose yearlong range, and high priority deer summer range. In addition there are golden eagle nests and Cooper's hawk nests located in the canyon. Because of the importance of this location as wildlife habitat, we would like to see as little surface disturbing activity as possible in this area.

DWR supports readjustment of this lease with the application of the special stipulations outlined. We strongly support those stipulations calling for inventory and monitoring programs. We are particularly concerned with the effect of subsidence on perennial water sources. These water sources support riparian zones, provide habitat for fish and other aquatic life, and provide a source of drinking water for wildlife. Riparian zones provide some of the highest value wildlife habitat. These zones also provide critical habitat for the area's developing moose population. Each and every water source is a crucial resource for wildlife.

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Mr. Charles J. Jankiewicz

March 27, 1992

Another concern is the potential loss of raptor nesting sites due to escarpment failure. There are a number of active and inactive raptor nest in the canyon. These nests should be monitored to determine annual activity and the effects of any subsidence on nest integrity. Measures must be taken to minimize and mitigate losses if there is any indication of habitat damage due to subsidence.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this action. DWR supports your efforts in managing mining activities. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Ken Phippen, Regional Habitat Manager (637-3310).

Sincerely,



Miles Moretti
Regional Supervisor

SR/lcl

Copy: Ralph Miles, DWR
Rod Player, USFS
Daron Haddock, DOGM